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A WHITE WOODCHUCK

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF AN EXTREME-LY INTERESTING PET.

A Wild Little Creature That Became Domesticated by Kindness-His Long Periods of Sleep and How He Looked During Them-His Awakening.

Some years ago in the spring, while traveling on the Belfast Branch railroad, just before arriving at Brook Station, I chanced to be looking out of the car window and saw a curious looking ani-mal run under a pile of brush in a gravel pit near the track. I concluded at once that it must be an albino woodchuck, as my husband had told me one had been seen in that vicinity. At the station I hastily procured a basket, and securing the assistance of two boys I proceeded without loss of time to the gravel pit, and overhauling some of the brush soon found the prize. As I had conjectured, it was an albino woodchuck about twothirds grown, pure white, with pink eyes, and as saucy a little fellow as one would care to handle. Without much difficulty I dropped my basket over him, and securing him returned to the sta-tion, boxed him up and expressed him come to my husband, with instructions to keep him on a milk diet until my re-

turn a week later. On returning home I found my pet ensconced in a nest of cotton, purring away like a contented kitten. He seemed quite reconciled to the restraints of captivity, had already become so tame as to allow his beautiful snow white coat to be stroked, and seemed especially to enjoy gentle stroking about the face, which I think is a characteristic of most wild animals, and one of the ways of establishing confidential relations with them. For the first year his food consisted prinzipally of bread and milk, with an oc-casional handful of plantain leaves. A most interesting sight was to watch him while being fed. He would sit up like a squirrel, holding his food in his paws. He soon learned to take his milk from a spoon. Grasping it near the bowl, he would hold it very gracefully until the milk was all lapped out; then, with a little assistance, would return it to the cup to be filled, and repeat the operation until his appetite was satisfied. Then he would go into his nest, roll himself up like a kitten and take a nap of several hours. With one exception he never showed his wild, savage nature during the two years of his life in confinement.

Early in the fall the disposition to hibernate began to show itself by his lack of activity, and he remained in his nest most of the time, his sleep becoming so profound that he could be taken from the nest without awaking. About Nov. 1 his sleep for the winter began. He was placed in the cellar, where the temperature was very even—just above the freezing point—and here he remained without being disturbed until the mid-

During all this time his body remained cold, and to all outward appearances life-less. About the time of his awakening in March, upon visiting him and placing my hand on his body, I found it to be quite warm, and after rubbing him for a few moments he began to yawn and stretch, but did not get upon his feet. The next day I took him into a warm room in order to watch the process of awakening, rubbing his body and legs for an hour or more. He seemed quite indifferent to my solicitude on his be-half, but gradually awakened, opened his eyes, chattered his teeth, and gave that peculiar whicker so characteristic of a disturbed woodchuck.

His efforts to stand upon his feet were for some hours ineffectual. He seemed to have lost the use of them. Toward night, however, he seemed to regain full night, however, he seemed to regain to control of all his faculties and partock of a little milk. I was surprised to notice but little loss of fat during the long period of sleep. He had become ex-cessively fat before going into his winter sleep, and I expected that would be absorbed during that period. His fur had become long and of a beautiful silvery gloss—so white and silky that it was a pleasure to stroke and pet him.

Upon his first awakening and for a day or two he seemed to have forgotten his friends and manifested his wild nature so much as to make himself very disagreeable. He ate with a voracious appetite and began to grow thin. In a few days he became a mere skeleton of his former self, and for several weeksuntil June 1-did not begin to take on flesh. He now displayed more activity than at any other time during the year.

The following winter his sleep was in-terrupted once in two weeks. This was done by wrapping him in warm flannels and placing him in a warm room. He partook of but little food, and during the period of two days of broken rest he seemed very uneasy. About the last of March, when he should have awakened to activity, he was taken sick and died in convulsions after a sickness of two days. I now have him nicely mounted in my collection, among which are several albinos, but none so perfect as my beautiful pet.—Cor. Forest and

Rather Unreasonable. Little Girl-I don't see why teachers

has to be so meen.

Aunty—What has yours done?

Little Girl—In the 'stronomy lessons last term she asked me how many moons Jupiter had, and I said five, and she marked me a miss 'cause the book said four. Now she says Jupiter really has five moons, and I wanted her to mark that miss off, and she wouldn't.—Good News.

The Countess of Aberdeen keeps eighty servants in her home in Scotland, and is considered to be the one woman in Great Britain who has come closest to a solution of the servant girl problem.

PIOCHE, NEVADA, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1893.

Women who wish to give a long waisted appearance to their bodices are wearing pointed cut jet girdles, with very long jet fringe on the lower edge. These girdles are very expensive, but if one has the time a girdle can be made at home at a comparatively small cost. The plain jet girdle may be got, and strands of beads bought and hung in the proper fringe fashion from it. In doing this be careful that each string of beads is separate and the thread securely fas-tened, so that if one should break the others will not of necessity follow its example.—Exchange.

How an English Girl Will See America. A young English girl is traveling through America in a novel way. She was anxious to see the country, but had only enough money to pay her expenses from place to place. At Washington, which she first visited, she applied for a position as chambermaid in one of the best hotels. Her neatness and pleasant manner at once secured her the coveted place. She performed her duties quietly and faithfully, had every other afternoon out, saw all the sights of the capital, and in a month was ready to leave for the next point of interest.--Cincinnati Enquirer.

An Evening with Authors. A now version of evenings with authors was tried at a recent gathering. Some of the company impersonated well known characters in fiction, each giving a short selection, taken so as to avoid the use of telltale names, and the rest, provided with pencil and paper, undertook to furnish a description and designation of the character depicted. The time limit was ten minutes, and a prize

was given for the best and most compre-

hensive essay. Booby prizes were also awarded, and plenty of merriment was evolved.—New York Times. A Woman on Hand in Time of Need. The friends of woman's progress are congratulating themselves that, though it was intimated at the Emergency hospital on the fair grounds that no woman medicos were needed, the first case to be taken there was attended by a wom an physician, Dr. Gertrude Wellington. A lady was injured by the wheel of a car passing over her foot, and Dr. Wellington, with no better instruments than a policeman's club and her own handkerchief, stopped the flow of blood until the

In Fashion Again. Who does not remember when their grandmothers were what were known as 'congress gaiters?" Well, the fin de siece girl is wearing them now, or what is practically the same thing, and they are to be found in all the smart shoemakers' windows, with the rubber set in the sides of the cloth uppers, and a mighty comfortable and neat bit of foot covering they are.—Philadelphia Times.

ambulance arrived.—Chicago Letter.

Jean Ingelow for Poet Laureate.

A queen should have a woman for laureate. Victoria is to look among the women of England to know who has written or who can write such poems as shall honor a reign, now more than half a century long, which has a literature of its own, as in all other regards it has its own distinctive history. This wom an is Jean Ingelow.—Edward E. Hale in Boston Commonwealth.

While hats are of the largest, bonnets are of the smallest; a bow with an air gret or flower, or a tiny capote of the shape of a Henri Deux cap, with strings to give a dignified touch to their jauntiness, are the favorite shape so far.

Raphael's Theological Virtue. It is vain to accuse Raphael, as did certain of his contemporaries, of not having sufficient theological virtue, inasmuch as he painted virgins that were too humanly adorable. Raphael conformed his painting to his ideas and his formed his painting to his dees and his sentiments. He expressed his soul, just as Lippo Lippi, Botticelli, Mantegna, Bellini and Perugino expressed their souls, each one differently, and in a manner characteristic of his more or less complex personality; and, as regards each one of them, the degree of our admiration and sympathy depends upon the temperament and culture of our own souls.—Theodore Child in Harper's.

A Father's Suggestion. Jack-I hope you'll consent to a mar riage between myself and your daughter

Quiverfull—Can't do it, young man-weddings are too confoundedly expen-sive. No, sir, I refuse my consent, but of course—er—if you and Alice should take it into your heads to elope——.
—Kate Field's Washington.

A Pair of Misers.

Mr. and Miss Dancer are reputed the most notorious misers of the Eighteenth century. The manner in which this couple were found after death to have disposed of their wealth was even more strange than could have been their method of acquiring it. The total value was £20,000, which was thus disposed of —£2,500 were found under a dunghill; £500 in an old coat, nailed to the manger in the stable; £800 in notes were hidden away in an old tespot; the chimney yielded £2,000, stowed in nineteen sep-arate crevices. Several jugs filled with coin were secreted in the stable loft.

Hay, Wagons and Tramps. One hardly expects to find humor in the reports of town officers, but occa-sionally some of the unintentional kind crops out, as in this item of disbursement in a Hartford county town, "Mrs.

M. Leak, for maintaining watering trough, threedollars," or this from a town in Massachusetts, "A new building has been erected the past year for the purpose of storing hay, wagons, farming tools, tramps," etc.—Hartford Post.

As we examine the various madonnas by Botticelli in the galleries of London, Berlin, Paris and Florence we cannot fail to be struck by the ardor of emotion that seems to have animated the painter in his search for the perfect type of beauty realized in the "Crowning of the Virgin." The construction of the head of the Virgin is essentially the same in all Botticelli's pictures, but the fleshly mask and the expression vary, and the final charm of each one remains an undecipherable puzzle.

We feel that this madonna is an intimate vision of the ideal woman who "imparadised" the painter's soul; so Dante speaks of Beatrice, the object of surpassing desire. We marvel at the mouth, at the eyes, at the eyelids, at the sweep of the brows, at the thick golden threaded hair, at the splendor of the draped head over which angels hold a crown, at the beautiful color of the flesh, which suggests a souvenir of the 'Vita Nuova.'

-Theodore Child in Harper's.

Now that electricity is being more and more widely used it is no longer safe for a woman to carry her watch in the place where it has always been most secure-in her corsets. A New York woman a few days ago was going to pay a visit of curiosity to an electric light plant. She was warned that her watch might be charged with electricity, and

day the movements of the watch were most eccentric. Now it was fast, now slow, but never right. She asked her husband, who was an electrician, what could be the matter with it, and he soon found that her corset steels had been charged with electricity during her visit to the plant, and that next day, when she placed her watch in its usual resting place, the charge had been communicated to its works.

following notice in large letters: "Horses admitted to graze at the fol-

"First-Horses with long tails, three

"Second-Horses with clipped tails, one franc."

him the reason for that difference in the charge, he will reply:

The reason is very simple. The horses with long tails can easily drive away the flies, while those with clipped tails cannot do so, and they are so tormented by these insects that they eat absolutely nothing. - Mondo Umoris

attendance, but he found that many of them objected to the omission, and aceighteen pence a day in each bill. That eighteen pence produced £2,000 a year. He began business with only £1,500, domestic service, and he has recently

Gaining Time. Teacher-What is the beight of Pike's peak?

above the surrounding country? "How high is it above the sea?

"Either."

A Famous Expression. "There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip" is a very old saying, and was first uttered to the king of Samos, an island in the Grecian archipelago. This king, Ancaus by name, planted a vineyard and treated the slaves who cultivated it so badly that one of them told him he would never live to taste the wine made from it. When the wine was ready and a cup of it poured out for the king he sent for the slave who had prophesied his death, and asked him

The slave replied, "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip," and just as he had spoken the words Ancieus received warning that a wild boar had broken into his vineyard and was ruining it. Putting down the wine untasted, he rushed out to attack the boar and was killed .-- Harper's Young People.

Miss Homans, the head of the Normal in a recent interview these statistics concerning the influence of athletics upon dress. "Two years ago," she says, ' two of the young women at the end of the school year who continued to wear

The Czar Is Like Many Other Men.

Meat Market

She hath that paleness of the pearl that's fit in a fair woman; so much and not more; She is as high as nature's skill can soar; Beauty is tried by her comparison.

Charged Corsets.

so she did not take it with her.

The precaution was useless. The next

Of course women have often worn corsets that have been "charged"-at the shop. But here is a new idea .-- New York World.

In the neighborhood of Turin there is to be seen, at the entrance to a field, the

If you go to a countryman and ask

A Fortune in "Attendances." A certain hotel keeper in London decided not to charge his customers for cordingly there appeared the charge of and he recently retired into private life worth £150,000. He was at one time in bought an Essex estate, with its old mansion and deer park.-London Tit-Bits.

Boy-Do you mean how high it "Um! At high tide or low tide?"

"I forget."-Good News.

COD'S CIFT what he thought of his prophecy now.

cured of

School of Gymnastics in Boston, gives of a class of thirty-seven there were but corsets, and no one continued to wear French heels. Last year out of a class of seventy-one seven-eighths gave up

Men seem to be very much alike the world over. Whenever the czar has a spasm of economy he always begins to cut down expenses first in his wife's allowance. The last time his majesty had an attack of thriftiness he reduced the amount of his wife's spending money. This time it is a journey she proposed to take in the Caucasus that has been abandoned on account of the expense attendant upon her traveling with her suite.



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